

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
UNITED DISTRICT

(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)



ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

A. T. HUNT

M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*for the year*

1962

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UNITED DISTRICT

*(East Dean, Lydney, Newent & West Dean Rural Districts)*

ANNUAL REPORT  
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year  
1962

DIVISIONAL HEALTH OFFICE,

COLEFORD, GLOS.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Rural District Councils of the  
West Gloucestershire United District.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1962. I have prepared this in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

I have, as usual, included the reports of the Public Health Inspectors, Surveyors and Housing Officers, and received assistance from other Officers of the Councils.

The health of the Area was similar to that of the rest of Southern England during the year.

The standard of housing continued to improve, not only by the building of new houses but by the improvement of old ones, in most cases with the aid of a grant. Progress was made in the extension of water supply mains and of sewerage during the year.

With regard to infectious disease, there were no cases of diphtheria or poliomyelitis. Fortunately no case of smallpox arose in the Area ; there was almost a stampede for vaccination when cases arose elsewhere, so that the state of vaccination is now higher than for many years.

We are still vulnerable to the virus infections such as influenza. The childish complaints continue to arise, but it is hoped that it will soon be possible to give protection against measles.

The vital statistics and pattern of the causes of death are similar to those of the Nation.

I should like to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Councils for their co-operation and understanding. I have to thank the Public Health Inspectors for their loyal support and other Officers of the Councils for their co-operation. I am grateful to the printers for their care in preparing this Report and my Clerk, Miss E. M. Hughes, for her careful work in compiling it and her assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. HUNT

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Birth and Death Rates

			<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
England and Wales	...	...	18.0	11.9
Gloucestershire	...	...	18.7	11.1
Combined Forest Area	...	...	17.5 (18.8)	12.0 (12.4)
East Dean	...	...	17.9 (18.3)	12.3 (12.9)
Lydney R.D.	...	...	16.3 (18.1)	10.7 (11.8)
Newent R.D.	...	...	18.9 (17.2)	10.3 (9.6)
West Dean	...	...	17.5 (18.3)	13.4 (14.5)

The Birth Rate is the number of live births per 1,000 population ; the Death Rate is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. The figures in brackets are the "corrected" rates which are obtained by multiplying the crude rate by the appropriate comparability factor issued by the Registrar General.

There were no deaths associated with childbirth.

There were 18 deaths during the first year of life (11 male and 7 female), of these 10 were during the first week, 4 were from the end of the first week to the end of the fourth week and 4 were from the end of the fourth week to the end of the first year.

### Numbers of Births and Deaths

			<i>Population</i>	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Excess of Births over Deaths</i>
East Dean	...	...	20,800	370	256	114
Lydney R.D.	...	...	12,930	211	138	73
Newent R.D.	...	...	8,850	167	91	76
West Dean	...	...	17,590	307	236	71
Total Area	...	...	60,170	1,055	721	334

### Chief Causes of Death

						<i>Percentage of total deaths</i>
Coronary disease and angina	...	...	...	...	...	19.0
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	16.9
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	3.5
Vascular diseases of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	16.9
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4.2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3.3
Pneumoconiosis (13 deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	1.8
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3.2

Cancer Deaths

	East Dean	Lydney R.D.	Newent R.D.	West Dean	Total
MALE					
Stomach ... ..	5	3	1	3	12
Lung and Bronchus ...	6	5	3	8	22
Other ... ..	12	8	4	9	33
Leukaemia ... ..	1	—	2	—	3
FEMALE					
Stomach ... ..	4	—	—	2	6
Lung and Bronchus ...	—	—	—	2	2
Breast ... ..	7	4	—	6	17
Uterus ... ..	1	1	—	2	4
Other ... ..	12	2	2	7	23
Leukaemia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	48	23	12	39	122



CAUSES OF DEATH	East Dean		Lydney		Newent		West Dean		Total Area		
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Total
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	2	5
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of infectious disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
Cancer and other malignant neoplasms	24	24	16	7	10	2	20	19	70	52	122
Diabetes	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1	3
Vascular disease of the nervous system	13	25	10	8	2	10	20	27	45	70	115
Coronary disease and angina	29	18	20	16	6	6	31	11	86	51	137
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	3	3	6
Other heart disease	13	20	6	16	9	6	29	23	57	65	122
Other circulatory disease	4	4	3	1	5	3	3	2	15	10	25
Influenza	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	3	2	5
Pneumonia	4	7	4	1	3	3	2	6	13	17	30
Bronchitis	5	2	5	1	4	1	5	1	19	5	24
Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	6	3	9
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	2	5
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of the prostate	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	7	—	7
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	19	3	6	3	9	7	8	26	42	68
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3	2	—	—	—	1	1	6	4	10
All other accidents	4	2	1	2	1	—	3	—	9	4	13
Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	128	128	74	64	47	44	133	103	382	339	721

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

### Smallpox

At the end of 1961 and the beginning of January, 1962, five cases of smallpox arrived in this Country from Pakistan. A number of secondary cases arose in the Midlands and this caused numerous requests for vaccination.

On the 1st February, a case of eczema vaccinatum arose at Drybrook in a girl of 9, who was not vaccinated, as she had dermatitis, but caught vaccinia by contagion from her mother or sisters or brother who had all been vaccinated. In view of the similarity of the rash to smallpox I called in a Consultant, who considered that smallpox could not be excluded clinically and had to await the examination of the virus in the lesions by the Reference Laboratory. In the meantime contacts were vaccinated. The child was treated in Ham Green Hospital and recovered.

Two cases of eczema vaccinatum arose at Ruardean, a boy of 1½ and his mother. Neither had been vaccinated, but other members of the family had because of the presence of smallpox in the Midlands. The boy died but the mother recovered.

The 5.05 p.m. train from Birmingham to Swansea on the 13th January, carried one of the cases of smallpox imported from Pakistan, through the District. Persons who travelled on the train were asked to report to their Medical Officers of Health. The train did not stop at Lydney but two persons who got off at Chepstow reported to me.

The Ministry of Health recommended vaccination of contacts only and not mass vaccination. When cases arose without apparent contact with known cases of the disease, and in view of the numerous contacts of persons in the Area especially of the Lydney District with the Rhondda, there was naturally a great demand for vaccination. With some reluctance I did open Clinics at Lydney. A great deal of illness was caused by vaccination, but it must be remembered that this is the premium that must be paid for insurance against the disease and that the protection will be long lasting.

### Diphtheria

For the fourteenth year in succession there was no case of this disease.

### Poliomyelitis

There was again no case of this disease.

### Scarlet Fever

Only three cases were notified. This must have been the lowest number of notifications received in a year. This reduction is not, of course, due to immunization but to the availability of antibiotics, especially penicillin, which tend to cut short the period of infection.



## **Erysipelas**

Only two cases were notified.

## **Whooping Cough**

There were only ten cases of this disease notified during the year. It appears that immunization has caused a great reduction in the incidence of this disease.

## **Acute Pneumonia**

Eleven notifications were received.

## **Measles**

There were epidemics at Lydney in January and February, at Newent in July and Cinderford in August.

## **Rubella (German measles)**

The School Returns showed this to be widespread throughout the Area in the first half of the year.

## **Mumps**

This was epidemic at Coleford in January and February, at English Bicknor and Berry Hill in March, at Bream in May and June, Lydney and Broadwell July to September, Staunton (Newent) in July and Woolaston in October and November.

## **Chickenpox**

Epidemics occurred at Schools in most parts of the Area from Bicknor, Broadwell, Dymock, Soudley, Huntley and Longhope in February, Redmarley in March, Coleford April to June, Cinderford in May, Tidenham, Drybrook, Ruspidge and Lydbrook in June, Drybrook and Bream in July and Littledean and Cinderford in December.

## **Influenza**

The new claims to sickness benefit rose from an average of 170 per week to 533 in the week which ended on the 9th January, but fell again to normal by the middle of February. This was chiefly because of upper respiratory tract infections of the influenza type. Five deaths were ascribed to this infection.

## **Jaundice**

A few cases of infectious hepatitis occurred in Cinderford in February and isolated cases elsewhere. A death was recorded from this disease.

## **Paratyphoid B.**

Three people from the area went to the Holy Land for a holiday in August with an organised tour. All the party appeared to have developed diarrhoea. On their return several of the members living elsewhere were found to have paratyphoid B, and of the three persons living in this Area one only was found to be excreting paratyphoid germs. It was not until the end of November that she could be declared free from the infection.

## **Puerperal Pyrexia**

Nine cases were notified at various times.

## **Food Poisoning**

Six cases were notified but none were confirmed.

## **Dysentery**

A number of cases of dysentery occurred amongst children attending Broadwell Schools at the end of the year. Six cases were notified and a number of other cases were found, making twenty-one altogether. At the same time there were other cases of stomach upset which appeared to be due to a virus infection, no dysentery germs being present.

All children suffering from diarrhoea were excluded from School until two consecutive specimens of faeces were free from dysentery germs. Paper towels were provided and personal cleanliness was emphasized to the children.

There were also two cases of dysentery at Tidenham in June.

Apart from dysentery, there were isolated outbreaks of enteritis during the summer which must have been due to viruses, no pathogenic bacteria having been isolated.

# Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuber- culosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Registers)
EAST DEAN R.D.					
Awre ...	—	—	—	—	9
Blaisdon ...	—	—	—	1	2
Churcham ...	3	—	—	—	3
Cinderford ...	62	—	—	7	61
Drybrook ...	1	—	—	3	29
Huntley ...	—	—	—	—	1
Littledean ...	3	2	1	—	4
Longhope ...	1	—	—	—	5
Mitcheldean ...	1	—	—	2	17
Ruardean ...	—	—	—	—	9
Ruspidge ...	1	—	—	3	18
Male ...	32	—	—	13	91
Female ...	40	2	1	3	67
TOTAL ...	72	2	1	16	158
NEWENT R.D.					
Bromsberrow ...	—	—	—	—	—
Corse ...	3	—	1	—	—
Dymock ...	8	—	—	—	4
Hartpury ...	2	—	—	—	1
Kempley ...	—	—	—	—	2
Newent ...	142	4	—	—	10
Oxenhall ...	2	—	—	—	—
Pauntley ...	1	—	—	—	—
Redmarley ...	2	—	—	1	2
Rudford ...	—	—	—	—	1
Staunton ...	—	—	—	—	2
Taynton ...	2	—	—	—	—
Tibberton ...	5	—	—	1	2
Upleadon ...	3	—	—	—	1
Male ...	91	1	—	2	17
Female ...	79	3	1	—	8
TOTAL ...	170	4	1	2	25

## Notification of certain Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis Cases

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuber- culosis (new cases)	Tuberculosis (Total cases on Registers)
<b>LYDNEY R.D.</b>					
Alvington ...	I	—	—	—	5
Aylburton ...	—	—	—	—	4
Hewelsfield ...	5	I	—	—	I
Lydney ...	113	—	—	I	22
St Briavels ...	6	I	I	—	3
Tidenham ...	13	—	—	12	22
Woolaston ...	—	—	—	—	4
Male ...	63	—	—	12	40
Female ...	75	2	I	I	21
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>WEST DEAN R.D.</b>					
Coleford ...	—	—	—	I	17
English Bicknor	—	—	—	—	I
Lydbrook ...	2	2	—	2	17
Newland-Clearwell	3	—	—	I	14
Ne'land-Redbrook	—	—	—	—	2
Staunton ...	2	—	—	—	4
<b>WEST DEAN PARISH</b>					
Berry Hill ...	5	—	—	—	17
Bream ...	—	—	—	I	25
Broadwell ...	—	—	—	—	18
Ellwood ...	—	—	—	—	I
Milkwall ...	—	—	—	3	4
Parkend ...	—	—	—	—	5
Pillowell ...	—	—	—	—	8
Viney Hill ...	I	—	—	—	I
Whitecroft ...	—	—	—	—	9
Yorkley ...	—	—	—	—	16
Male ...	5	I	—	5	111
Female ...	8	I	—	3	48
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>159</b>

### Tuberculosis

Thirty-nine cases were notified during the year.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Coleford, Cinderford and Lydney in May. In this Area this still remains an important method of case finding and an annual visit to these towns is desirable.

The number of names on the Registers was reduced to 403 and of these probably less than 100 are infectious ; few are continuously so.

Of the eleven cases notified in the Tidenham Parish, one was a middle-aged man and nine were primary cases in boys associated with him.



Notifications during the Year :—

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	...	...	13	3	—	—	16
Lydney	...	...	12	—	—	1	13
Newent	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
West Dean	...	...	5	3	—	—	8
TOTALS	...	...	32	6	—	1	39

Cases on Registers at the end of the Year :—

			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
East Dean	...	...	85	54	6	13	158
Lydney	...	...	38	18	2	3	61
Newent	...	...	16	6	1	2	25
West Dean	...	...	98	34	13	14	159
TOTALS	...	...	237	112	22	32	403

Nuclear Power Stations

The Berkeley Station commenced passing electricity into the grid on the 12th June, being the first large commercial nuclear power station to go into operation ; the first reactor reached full output on the 31st July.

An Emergency Scheme was prepared in case of any unforeseen accident. This included the stocking, for emergency distribution to persons living within a half mile of the Station, of potassium iodide tablets. There is reason to expect that if any unforeseen accident should occur, the radioactivity liberated would be mostly in the form of radioactive iodine and that the taking of one tablet of potassium iodide would reduce ten times the amount of radioactive iodine absorbed.

A new Station is being built at Oldbury and the same Liaison Committee will cover both Stations. This Station will produce 550 M.W. compared with Berkeley's 275 M.W.

Swimming Pools

The Lydney Rural District Council decided to adopt Byelaws under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, similar to the models but with variations. This will enable hygienic supervision to be had over any new public swimming pool.



The Bathurst pool is the only pool open to the public in the Area. This was greatly used and remained satisfactory.

The number of pools at Schools tended to increase ; in addition to the pool at Bell's Grammar School and the one at Berry Hill Secondary Modern School, one was opened at Abenhall Secondary Modern School.

Although it is not possible for Byelaws to be applied to such school swimming pools, yet it is clearly incumbent upon the Education Authority to see that the hygienic and safety standards are not lower than those required by the Byelaws.

Whereas there is a great deal of satisfaction for a school to have a pool of its own, yet the capital outlay and care of maintenance is such that it would sometimes be more satisfactory for several schools to combine for the provision of a swimming pool. There is a great need for such a joint effort to provide a pool for the schools of the Cinderford area.

### **Analysts**

Specimens and samples for bacteriological examination are normally sent to the Newport Public Health Laboratory. Dr R. D. Gray, the Director, and his staff have given excellent service for a number of years ; reports have always been prompt and positive results have been telephoned.

Samples for chemical analysis from the four Rural Districts are sent to the University of Bristol Laboratory under arrangements made by the County Council.

Specimens and samples for bacteriological examination from the Newent Rural District are sent to the Laboratory at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers**

The Lydney and West Dean Councils made Byelaws under Section 77 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1961, for the purpose of securing cleanliness of hairdressers and their premises.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47**

No application was made to a Court by any of the Councils for the removal of a person living in insanitary conditions and being incapable of looking after him or herself and not receiving proper care and attention from another person.

I investigated several cases but after careful consideration did not report any to the Councils.

# **EAST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Public Health Committee**

Chairman : MRS D. J. BRAIN

Vice-Chairman : MR M. BRAIN

Members : Councillors Mrs M. M. Virgo, Mrs A. Weaving, R. J. Bevan, W. Bunn, H. C. Byett, E. Cooke, H. Cumberlin, J. I. Duberley, H. C. Gibbs, F. A. Haines, A. R. Hawkins, J. L. Jones, G. B. Keyse, M. V. Lark, H. J. Marfell, W. H. Meredith, T. A. Trigg, M. Tucker, L. J. Tuffley, L. S. Wilce, A. M. White and W. Wilkins.

## **Public Health Staff**

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : A. D. PARSONS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector : B. G. RISBEY, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Rodent Operator : C. BARNARD.

## **Statistics**

Population=20,800 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1962).

Area=30,475 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=6,614.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1962, was £163,075.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1962, was £677 6s. 5d.

Number of Live Births=370. Number of Deaths=256.

Excess of Births over Deaths=114.

Birth Rate=17.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.03 this gives a corrected rate of 18.3.

Death Rate=12.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a corrected rate of 12.9.

## Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	167	185	352	8	10	18	175	195	370
Still Births	2	3	5	—	—	—	2	3	5
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	4	2	6	1	—	1	5	2	7
1-4 weeks	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2

## Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	No. of Dwellings	No. of Caravans	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply
Awre	1,841	540	3	490
Blaisdon	298	84	1	52
Churcham	736	233	3	135
Cinderford	6,950	2,254	7	2,238
Drybrook	2,886	885	10	880
Huntley	506	161	1	127
Littledean	1,290	419	5	397
Longhope	1,149	355	12	252
Mitcheldean	1,862	603	11	544
Ruardean	1,279	379	12	359
Ruspidge	2,003	614	22	584
TOTALS	20,800	6,527	87	6,058

The estimated populations for the separate parishes is the Registrar General's estimate for the Rural District apportioned according to the sizes of the electoral lists.

I have to thank Mr A. H. Moore, the Rating Officer, for the number of dwellings in each parish and for the properties connected to the main water supply except those for the parishes of Huntley and Churcham which were supplied by the Gloucester Corporation Water Engineer.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr A. D. Parsons reports as follows :—

#### Public Health

The work in the Public Health Department has increased to such an extent that the Council approved of the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector early in the year. Although the Council advertised twice for this appointment no suitable application was received.



The Slum Clearance Survey has still to be completed, and it was proposed to carry out extra routine inspections of food premises and to catch up on the duties involved in recent legislation.

Water and drainage mains were extended involving extra water sampling, advisory visits and inspections to lateral connections.

The lack of adequate fencing of quarries and pitshafts was a common complaint in this District, as were requests for the disposal of carcasses of animals, especially sheep killed on the highways. In all 766 complaints were received which entailed some 3,695 investigations and inspections.

In the middle of January, cases of smallpox occurred in the Midlands and South Wales and in early February, a suspected case of the disease in the District required instant investigations and precautionary measures. The staff in the Public Health Department were vaccinated against this disease in January.

A few cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated but were not confirmed by laboratory examinations.

Atmospheric pollution and noise nuisances were sporadic complaints which are becoming more common as the Public is becoming more aware of the respective Acts.

Occasionally too, advice was given and action was taken, where necessary, under the Weeds Act of 1959, Rights of Light Act, 1959, and in relation to dangerous structures under the Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961.

Fire Escape Certificates in relation to buildings were issued under the Public Health Act, 1936.

A preliminary survey of all hairdressing shops was made with a view to the adoption of byelaws to control the cleanliness of the premises, of the equipment and of the barbers themselves.

All bakehouses in the District were inspected late in the year.

Very few treatments were required to be given for the eradication of fleas, cockroaches and bedbugs.

## Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year and submitted to the laboratories :—

*Newport Public Health Laboratory* for bacteriological examination:—

Public Supply ...	...	...	71
Wells ...	...	...	6
Springs ...	...	...	1
Reservoirs ...	...	...	4
New mains ...	...	...	12
			—
Total ...	...	...	94
			—

## *Bristol Public Health Laboratory and Analyst's Department*

Eight samples of the principal raw waters were taken for chemical analysis and eight samples of the same waters for bacteriological examination.

Because of the shortage of the water supply to the higher part of Cinderford, a new main was constructed from the existing reservoir. Samples of water were taken before the mains were allowed to be used.

### **Housing Act, 1957**

#### **PART II**

Properties reported to the Council as being unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable expense	...	...	...	62
Action deferred	...	...	...	32
Undertakings accepted not to use house for human habitation				19
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	15
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	7

#### **PART III**

No Clearance Orders were made in 1962.

#### **PART V**

Thirty-two families were re-housed by the Council from individual unfit properties.

In addition to this, one family was re-housed from the Gloucester Rural District, and Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council re-housed a family from the East Dean Rural District.

### **Housing Acts, 1959 and 1961**

Assistance was given in respect of the making of Standard and Discretionary Grants under the Housing Acts of 1959 and 1961, and also with the purchase of older houses.

There are a number of Slum Clearance houses still to be dealt with if more houses, especially old people's bungalows, were to be built to re-house the tenants. Old persons appear to be more tolerant of bad housing conditions than younger people.

### **Rent Act, 1957**

There were four applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

### **Pitshafts and Quarries**

Several complaints were dealt with in connection with disused dangerous pitshafts and quarries at Harrow Hill, Wigpool, Ruardean Woodside and Drybrook. Under the Coal Mines Act, 1911, Section 26, and the Quarry (Fencing) Act of 1887, Section 3, unfenced pitshafts and quarries can be dealt with as statutory nuisances.



## **Refuse Collection**

This service for all the Parishes, with the exception of Cinderford and Ruspidge, continued to be carried out by the two contractors, Messrs E. A. Bayliss and C. Bell, under the supervision of this Department. The work was carried out satisfactorily and few complaints were received.

A circular letter was sent to residents in the District asking them to provide proper galvanised bins with close fitting lids. I am glad to report that most residents co-operated with this request.

Blakeney, Ruardean Woodside, Plump Hill and Longhope refuse tips gave little trouble during the year and were kept under constant supervision to prevent any nuisance arising from pests.

## **Street Cleansing**

Weekly collections during the summer months and fortnightly during the winter months, continued to be made from all the street bins provided throughout the whole of the District. The larger bins provided by the Highways Authority at lay-bys are now being used more and more for the disposal of domestic refuse from mobile caravans during the holiday season.

## **Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960**

Twenty-five applications were received by the Town and Country Planning Authority and Planning Permission was given for eight temporary licences for individual caravans ; four applications were refused.

There are three permanent residential caravan sites, each containing a number of caravans.

At the end of the year a successful Court action was taken in respect of failure to remove several caravans from a site licensed for one caravan only.

A request from the County Council for the District Council to provide a permanent site for twelve caravans for gipsies was not acceded to because the site was considered to be unsuitable.

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

The annual licence was renewed for the only pet shop in the District, which was inspected and found to be satisfactory.

## **Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926**

Land Searches in respect of 358 properties and land were dealt with by the Public Health Department for identification and observations.

## Drainage

380 visits were made in connection with drainage, which was a greater number than last year. This was partly because of the new sewer extensions at Morse Road and The Slope, Drybrook, where laterals were left for a number of properties. 122 visits were made in respect of 56 connections to sewers, and 94 in respect of 42 installations of septic tanks.

It was pleasing to learn that a new sanitary block and drainage plant were going to be erected at the only remaining school with pail closets.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Mr C. Barnard, the Rodent Operator, carried out his work very efficiently.

## Inspection and Disinfestation of Council's Main Sewers

The main sewers in most Parishes were inspected and treated in October, with the help of additional labour. On the first visit 73 manholes were inspected and baited. On the second visit three days later, 33 of these were found to be infested and were again baited and 48 adjacent manholes were also baited. On the third visit four days after, these 81 manholes were baited with poisoned bait (zinc phosphide with sausage rusk).

				<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	
					<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>
Council properties	...	...	123	52	—	
Private properties	...	...	220	157	31	
Farms ...	...	...	106	3	—	
Business premises	...	...	36	3	2	
Schools ...	...	...	5	1	4	

Nine treatments were given for ants, one for fleas and four for bedbugs.

# Factories Act, 1961

## Part I

### I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities ... ..	3	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ity ... ..	74	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	77	11	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	3	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	3	—	3	—



**Outworkers**

At present there are 27 outworkers in this District.

**Ice-cream**

Fifty samples of ice-cream were taken and all were placed in Grade I. Premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage and Sale of ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Manufacture, storage and sale (Cold mix method only was used) ... ..						4
Storage and sale of (pre-packed) ice-cream ...						117
						<hr/>
Total ... ..						121
						<hr/>

Two applications were received from licensees of local inns for registration under the Food and Drugs Act to store and sell ice-cream.

**Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

Seven slaughter men's licences were renewed to slaughter animals for food.

**Visits and Inspections**

Public Health	...	...	...	...	900
Housing	...	...	...	...	1,060
Drainage	...	...	...	...	380
Caravans	...	...	...	...	192
Refuse	...	...	...	...	134
Slaughterhouse		...	...	...	367
Street Cleansing		...	...	...	59
Pests	...	...	...	...	149
Food and Drugs		...	...	...	204
Noise Abatement		...	...	...	22
Water	...	...	...	...	158
Air Pollution	...	...	...	...	8
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	12
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	8
Milk and Dairies		...	...	...	4
Land Charges	...	...	...	...	38
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	3,695
					<hr/>



### **Food condemned (other than at Slaughterhouse)**

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	28 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	238 tins
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	130 „
Tinned meat (various)	...	...	...	...	...	42 „
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	20 „
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	8 „
Irish stew	...	...	...	...	...	4 „

### **Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse**

3 Bovine heads	...	...	...	...	240 lbs.
7 Pigs heads	...	...	...	...	86 „
Bovine and sheep livers	...	...	...	...	1,400 „
Bovine and sheep livers (part)	...	...	...	...	350 „
Lights	...	...	...	...	210 „

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	1,782	—	158	5,767	3,034	—
Number inspected ...	1,782	—	158	5,767	3,034	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	—	1	2	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	150	—	—	50	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	8.4	—	0.6	0.9	0.16	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	0.18	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Mr J. A. N. Butterworth, A.I.A.S., reports as follows :—

### Water Supply Statistics

A total quantity of 290,258,000 gallons of water was supplied from four main sources during the year ended 31st December, 1962, and showed an increase of 12,891,000 gallons compared with 1961.

Consumption of water throughout the District continues to rise each year and it is quite obvious that existing sources will have to be augmented in the near future if demand is to be met.

Amount of water consumed during year :—

	<i>gallons</i>
Greenbottom ... ..	202,531,000
West Dean R.D.C. ... ..	63,639,000
Blakeney ... ..	20,188,000
Gloucester Corporation (Blaisdon) ...	3,900,000
<hr/>	
Total ... ..	290,258,000
<hr/>	

It will be noted from the above that the quantity of water taken from West Dean Rural District Council reached the highest level ever and averaged 174,000 gallons daily throughout the year under review.

### Water Supply—Distribution

During 1962 a length of 10 in. main was laid from the Littledean Hill Reservoir and connected into the existing distribution system at various points. One result of this work has been a better water supply to properties situated at the higher levels of the town, and the supply to Council houses on the Hildene Estate has also been improved.

### New Connections to Mains

Satisfactory progress was again made during the year and a total of 144 existing and new properties (including caravans) were connected to the public water supply.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work was completed during the year on a sewer extension at the Slope, Drybrook, and work on a similar scheme, to serve a number of properties in the Hawkwell Row area, was commenced.

All sewage disposal works throughout the District, continued to receive regular maintenance and inspection and were generally in a satisfactory condition.

The mains works, situated at Soudley, serves the inhabitants of Drybrook, Cinderford and Ruspidge, a combined total of 9,500 persons approximately. Ruardean, Mitcheldean and Blakeney are all sewered and served by small works which are manned part-time. The Council is, however, aware that many properties in the District are not served by public sewers, and indeed a public scheme has been approved for the laying of sewers and the construction of disposal works at Huntley.

# Refuse Collection

This service continued to operate satisfactorily, although more properties were built during the year and consequently the volume of refuse requiring to be collected is tending to increase year by year.

The whole question of method of collection is likely to be reviewed by the Council during 1963.

# Yew Tree Brake Cemetery

A total of forty burials were carried out at the above Cemetery during 1962.

## HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr L. A. Andrews, D.P.A., the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

### Council Houses

PARISH	Pre-War	Post-War up to 1961	Completed 1962		Total
			Houses	O.P.B.	
Awre	—	36	—	—	36
Blaisdon	—	—	—	—	—
Churcham	—	12	—	—	12
Cinderford	80	291	19	—	390
Drybrook	6	132	—	—	138
Huntley	—	8	—	—	8
Littledean	—	69	—	—	69
Longhope	6	24	—	—	30
Mitcheldean	6	120	4	3	133
Ruardean	10	61	4	8	83
Ruspidge	26	82	—	4	112
	134	835	27	15	1,011

### Private Dwellings

The number of private dwellings completed during the year was 81, making a total of 546 since 1946.



# **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY**

## **Water Supply**

### **East Dean Mains Supply**

Forty-five samples were taken from various tapings on the mains. All were satisfactory except four which showed slight contamination traceable to causes outside the mains.

Seventeen samples were also taken in connection with a main extension in Cinderford.

Full chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of the raw waters of the sources were satisfactory.

### **Southern Area Supply**

Following five unsatisfactory samples taken in January, samples were taken regularly and altogether eighteen satisfactory reports were obtained.

### **Gloucester Corporation Supply**

Three samples were taken and these were bacteriologically satisfactory. The City Water Engineer supplied me with a copy of a report on a full chemical analysis which was satisfactory.

### **New Spring at Greenbottom**

This spring was taken into use as an emergency measure. This was chemically satisfactory but one bacteriological examination showed some contamination.

To make this water reasonably safe three very poor properties near the springs should be vacated and cleared.

## **Sewerage**

The Soudley works remained overloaded and consideration was given to the provision of accessory works.

Progress was made with the planning of the Huntley works.

## **Housing**

It will be noted that the Council built twenty-seven houses and fifteen Old Persons' Bungalows. The number of private houses built was eighty-one compared with sixty in the previous year.

No. 20, Dockham Road continued to be occupied illegally in contravention of a Demolition Order.



Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw Waters) taken on 2.7.62.

	Blakeney Springs	Old Gold Mine Supply	Greenbottom Supplies					Adit	Deep Well
			St Anthony's Well	Gunns Mills New Spring	Gunns Mills No. 2 Spring	Borden Spring			
CHEMICAL (parts per million)									
Total Dissolved Solids	267	350	310	329	317	323	275	269	
Loss on ignition	25	27	39	19	45	56	43	43	
Mineral Matter	242	323	271	310	272	267	232	226	
Total hardness	238	324	262	290	274	296	228	206	
(a) Permanent	75	109	69	105	78	98	75	51	
(b) Temporary	163	215	193	185	196	198	153	155	
Chlorine (as Chloride)	13	16	14	14	12	13	12	11	
Free Ammonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Albuminoid Ammonia	0	0	0.01	0	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.77	1.00	4.82	4.59	2.90	4.82	1.53	1.66	
Nitrite Nitrogen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Copper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Zinc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Iron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Reaction pH	7.5	7.7	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.4	
BACTERIOLOGICAL									
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar									
24 hours at 37°C.	1	0	23	2	0	0	1	0	
72 hours at 22°C.	96	28	70	120	18	35	7	9	
Coliform bacilli (probable numbers per 100 ml.)	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	
Bact. coli (type I)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	



# LYDNEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Public Health Committee

Chairman : T. L. RICHARDS

Vice-Chairman : J. H. G. DARTERS

Members (from May, 1962) : Mrs D. L. Penney, W. A. Butt, N. H. Cooke, W. G. Creswick, M. G. Edwards, E. W. Goss, H. Harley, A. F. G. Hopes, J. W. Manson, R. Meredith, C. E. Phelps, C. R. Smith, G. Smith and M. R. Wyman.

## Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector : W. M. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

## Statistics

Population=12,930 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1962).

Area=24,597 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=3,908.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1962, was £141,807.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1962, was £572 4s. od.

Number of Live Births=211. Number of Deaths=138.

Excess of Births over Deaths=73.

Birth Rate=16.3 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.11 this gives a corrected rate of 18.1.

Death Rate=10.7 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.11 this gives a corrected rate of 11.8.

## Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	94	106	200	7	4	11	101	110	211
Still Births	2	4	6	—	—	—	2	4	6
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 wks.	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Alvington ...	429	126	105	1
Aylburton ...	822	263	229†	—
Hewelsfield ...	459	138	109	—
Lydney ...	5,337	1,742	1,712	—
St Briavels ...	1,149	391	320	—
Tidenham ...	2,989	977	937	—
Woolaston ...	802	271	230	2
TOTALS ...	11,987*	3,908	3,642	3

\*This is 943 less than the Registrar General's estimate of 12,930 in order to allow for the apprentices at the Beachley Army Apprentices' School. The figure for the number of dwellings and properties connected to a Mains Water Supply were supplied by Mr D. S. Bennett, A.R.V.A., the Rating Officer, and the population is the Registrar General's estimate apportioned according to the numbers of names on the electoral lists.

†This includes 78 dwellings supplied by the Aylburton Village Supply.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. M. Richards reports as follows :—

### Housing

#### Housing Acts, 1936-57

Individual Unfit Houses considered by the Council

Demolition Orders made ... ..	3
Closing Orders made ... ..	2
Undertakings accepted not to use house for human habitation until rendered fit ... ..	1
Houses demolished after formal action ... ..	2

#### Clearance Areas

The five houses included in the Red Lion Court Clearance Order have been demolished.

The houses included in the Post Office Row Clearance Order still remain to be demolished.

#### Rent Act, 1957

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act were received.



Improvement Grants

Throughout the District a number of substandard houses which would have been included in the Slum Clearance Programme have been improved with the aid of Improvement Grants so that they can now be expected to serve a useful purpose for at least a further fifteen years. During improvement works owners carry out, at their own expense, necessary repairs and this further enhances the useful life of these houses.

Applications for Improvement Grants on this type of property are still being received and this reduces the number of houses which would possibly have to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

	Sites for Individual Caravans	Permanent Residential Sites
Applications received during 1962 ... ..	16	2
Applications in respect of which a decision was not made during 1961 ... ..	5	2
	21	4
Applications granted during 1962 ... ..	10	1
Applications refused during 1962 ... ..	6	2
Applications in respect of which a decision was not made (during 1962) ... ..	3	1
Applications which fell within the first schedule of the Act (no site licence necessary) ... ..	2	—
	21	4
Transfers ... ..	—	1

Number of Parishes (in respect of which licences have been granted)

	<i>Sites for Individual Caravans</i>	<i>Permanent Residential Sites</i>
Alvington ... ..	1	—
Aylburton ... ..	3	—
Hewelsfield ... ..	8	—
Lydney ... ..	7	—
St Briavels ... ..	2	—
Tidenham ... ..	6	2
Woolaston ... ..	2	—
	—	—
	29	2
	—	—

## Water Samples

Forty-one samples were submitted from various sources to the following Laboratories :—

### *Public Health Laboratory, Newport*

For Bacteriological Examination	...	...	20
For Free Chlorine Examination	...	...	15
			—
			35
			—

### *University of Bristol, Canynge Hall, Bristol*

For Bacteriological Examination	...	...	3
For Chemical Analysis	...	...	3
			—
			6
			—

### Sources of Samples :

Raw waters	...	...	...	...	...	6
Piped supplies	...	...	...	...	...	25
Private spring supply	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swimming Bath	...	...	...	...	...	8

### Samples taken from taps on mains supply

					<i>Number of Samples</i>	
					<i>Bacteriological</i>	<i>Free Chlorine</i>
Ferneyley Supply	...	...	...	...	5	5
Tufts Level Supply		...	...	...	3	3
Aylesmore (Rodmore) Boreholes Supply	...				2	2
Aylburton Village Supply	...		...	...	2	—
Newport and Monmouthshire Water Board					2	1
Private Supply	...	...	...	...	2	—

Samples of raw waters taken from the sources of the following supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis :—

Ferneyley Supply  
Tufts Level Supply  
Aylesmore (Rodmore) Boreholes Supply

### Bathurst Swimming Pool

Four samples were taken for bacteriological and four samples for free chlorine examination.

## **Milk**

### **Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

#### **The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959**

Dairies not at farm ...	...	...	2
Distributors ...	...	...	24

#### **Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960**

There were, at 31st December, 1962, 18 licensed holders authorised to retail a Designated Milk under the above Regulations. Of this number 3 are licensed to sell Sterilised and Pasteurised Milk, 11 to sell Pasteurised Milk only, 2 to sell Pasteurised Milk and Raw Tuberculin Tested and 1 to sell Raw Tuberculin Tested only. All these licences are issued by the Gloucestershire County Council.

#### **Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959**

In addition there are 16 retailers of Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk who are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as Producer Retailers.

#### **Milk Vending Machines**

In the District at the present time there are four Vending Machines which are licensed to sell a Designated Milk.

#### **Sedbury Dairies Ltd**

Number of Producers : 48

Average daily throughput of milk : 2,500 gallons

Bottles (daily average) : 25,000

#### **Ice-Cream (Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16)**

There are 58 premises registered. Six premises were registered during the year.

Premises Registered :

For Manufacture (cold mix method used) ... 2

For Storage and Sale (pre-packed) ... 56

20 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were placed in Grade I.

Visits were made but no action was found to be necessary in respect of the handling of ice-cream, or of the condition of the premises.

## Meat Inspection

### Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering is carried out between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday in each week and it has been possible to maintain a 100 per cent. inspection of all food animals slaughtered.

Slaughtering was only carried out at one licensed premise during the year.

During the year ended 31st December, 1962, the following animals were slaughtered :—

### Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	116	—	3	643	5	—
Number inspected ...	116	—	3	643	5	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	16	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	3.4	—	—	2.5	—	—

Cysticercosis : No animal slaughtered was found to be affected by this infestation.

Tuberculosis : I am pleased to report that no carcase, part of a carcase or organ of the animals slaughtered during the year was affected with tuberculosis.



Amount of Meat and other Foods condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

4 Bovine Livers	...	...	...	...	46 lbs.
16 Sheep Livers	...	...	...	...	22 lbs.
2 Sheep Plucks	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Danish Gammon	...	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Fruit Salad	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Full Cream Milk	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Ideal Milk	...	...	...	...	7 tins
Kidney Pudding	...	...	...	...	12 tins
Lambs Tongues	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Minced Steak	...	...	...	...	5 tins
Ox Tongue	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Oranges	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Peaches	...	...	...	...	8 tins
Pineapple	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	21 tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	10 tins
1 Imported Cooked Gammon	...	...	...	...	11 lbs. 2 ozs.
1 Imported Boneless Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	10 lbs. 8 ozs.
2 Imported Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	6 lbs. each
1 Imported Picnic Pork	...	...	...	...	10 lbs. 2 ozs.
1 Imported Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	11 lbs. 2 ozs.
1 Imported Lamb's Liver	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Haddock	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Cured Fillet	...	...	...	...	2 stone
Cod Fillet	...	...	...	...	5 stone
Herring	...	...	...	...	1½ stone
Herring Roe	...	...	...	...	½ stone

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

The Council, in pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958, issued the following licences during the year :—

To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs	...	...	...	...	7
To slaughter and stun pigs only	...	...	...	...	11
To slaughter and stun cattle, calves, sheep and pigs under supervision	...	...	...	...	1

# Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report for year ended 31st December, 1962

	Type of Property			
	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Agricl. Premises
Number of Properties inspected by Local Authority as a result of :—				
(a) Notification ... ..	4	30	12	3
(b) Survey under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	14	—	18	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for other purposes) ...	—	94	35	—
Total inspections including re- inspections ... ..	26	232	82	12
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—				
(a) Rats : Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
Minor ... ..	1	27	15	3
(b) Mice : Major ... ..	—	—	—	—
Minor ... ..	3	3	8	—
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	4	30	23	3
Number of Block Control schemes carried out ... ..	—	—	—	—

During the year all Council properties, including the sewer systems, disposal units, refuse tips and stores were kept under regular observation and where necessary were treated with either Warfarin baits or Cymag Gas.

The Eastmarsh tip still continued to harbour a number of rats, but these were much reduced compared with the previous year due to regular treatment and the localisation of tipping.

The sewer systems of Lydney and Sedbury were test baited twice during the year, in June and November/December. On the first occasion two very small points of infestation were found and quickly cleared up ; on the second although far more extensive test baiting was carried out the system was found to be clear.

In addition some 30 dwelling houses and 12 business and other premises as well as 3 farms were treated against rodents as a result of notifications received or of inspections.

This decrease in rodent infestations as against other years has been because of the close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the Council's Rodent Contractors.

## Lydney Shipping

Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year 1962 :—

Coastwise	Number (Motors) (Sailing)	Tonnage	Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied
—	255	15,759	—	—

## Traffic Summary, 1962

Year	Vessels Inwards	Vessels Outwards	Timber Imported	Coal Exported	Other Cargoes
1961	277	269	26,718 tons	Nil	Nil
1962	255	258	20,906 tons	Nil	Nil
Increase	—	—	—	—	—
Decrease	22	11	5,812 tons	—	—

## Factories Act, 1961

### Part I

#### I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities                   ...                   ...	2	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ity                   ...                   ...	46	31	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises)                   ...                   ...	7	8	—	—
TOTAL                   ...                   ...	55	42	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

## Register of Factories

Changes during the year : added 4, deleted 4.

## Outworkers

Whitecroft Pin Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Lydney, Glos. : 8.



### **Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928**

Forty-five licences were issued by the Council for the storage of Petroleum Spirit :—

Number on the Register at the end of 1961	...	...	46
Number of Licences not renewed	...	...	1
Number of transfers	...	...	1
Summary : Filling Stations	...	16	
Farms	...	7	
Factories	...	10	
Quarries	...	3	
Business Premises	...	9	Total 45

Underground tanks and pipelines at two premises under construction were tested in accordance with the requirements of the above Act.

### **Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929**

One premise was licensed for the keeping of carbide of calcium.

### **Game Act, 1831**

One licence was issued under the above Act.

### **Public Health Acts**

Complaints : Of the sixty received, twenty were for defective drainage systems. Fifty-six were abated after personal approach and the service of preliminary notices ; four remained unabated.

### **Food Premises**

Number inspected of the following :—	<i>Inspections</i>
(a) Slaughterhouses	102
(b) Butchers' Shops	38
(c) Grocers' Shops	29
(d) Catering Establishments	14
(e) Other Food Premises including Mobile Shops	15

### **Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)**

Two premises, owing to restricted accommodation, were granted a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of Sub-Sections (2c) and (4c) of the above Act.

### **Food Hygiene Regulations**

Alterations and improvements were carried out to four shops in the area. One notice was served.

## **Land Charges Act, 1925, as amended by the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, 1926**

252 Land Searches were passed through the Public Health Department for observation, a number of which required identification and inspection.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 50)**

One burial was undertaken by the Council during the year from the Parish of St Briavels.

### **Licensed Premises**

Alterations have been carried out at four premises with improvements to the sanitary arrangements.

### **Burning of Waste Materials—Lydney Industrial Estate**

During the year there was very little nuisance from the burning of waste from factories.

From observations taken, waste from six factories was burnt on the general dump for a period of two hours a day, causing a slight emission of black smoke.

The factory which in previous years created a considerable nuisance by burning waste rubber, installed an incinerator which unfortunately could not dispose of all the waste. To prevent a recurrence of the nuisance the Company removed the waste material weekly to two sites outside the Lydney area.

## **ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr H. I. Spratt, M.I.MUN.ENG., A.M.P.T.I., M.R.S.H., reports as follows :—

The water pumped to the District is derived from five sources :—

- (1) Ferneyley Springs.
- (2) Boreholes at Rodmore.
- (3) Tufts Level.
- (4) Newport and Monmouthshire Water Board for parts of the parish of Tidenham.
- (5) Bulk supply from West Dean Rural District Council for Neds Top, Lydney.

The Ferneyley Springs are the main source and supply the parishes of Lydney, Aylburton, Alvington and parts of Woolaston, through the reservoirs at Heaven's Gate and Chapel Hill, Aylburton. The pumps at Rodmore lift the water from the boreholes and it is then boosted to the reservoir at Harthill, St Briavels, to supply the parishes of Hewelsfield, St Briavels, parts of Woolaston and of Tidenham.

The supplies from Ferneyley Springs and Rodomre are so designed that the yield from one source can be utilised to supplement the other.

The estimated yields and consumption in gallons were as follows :—

		<i>Ferneyley Springs</i>	<i>Rodmore</i>	<i>Tufts Level</i>
Yield	... ..	97,511,000	27,970,000	113,150,000
Amount utilised	...	89,609,000	27,970,000	30,761,000
Surplus	... ..	7,902,000	—	82,389,000

No records are available of the quantity of water supplied to the Army Apprentices' School at Beachley, or to other properties within the parish of Tidenham, which are in the statutory area of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board.

A small village supply is still used to supply water to houses in the village of Aylburton.

Waste detection meters installed in the new and old mains have enabled the waste detection programme to continue, and the time spent has been more than compensated for, by the saving in water and pumping charges.

During the year the maintenance work on the contract of the Hewelsfield, St Briavels and Mork scheme was carried out together with that on the new main to Half Acre Cafe, Lydney. The new supply to Tidenham Chase, Boughspring, and a new main from Clapp-y-ates to Stroat and Hanley Farm was completed. On this scheme fifty-five houses were supplied for the first time and seventeen transferred from the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board main.

A detailed scheme for the Allastone area was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, this included the laying of a 6 in. main from Church Road, Aylburton, then north-west of Lydney and through to Allastone. The cost of the scheme as approved was £18,252 15s. od. This scheme was completed and put into commission towards the end of the year, and now the Booster Station at Newerne, Lydney, is kept as a stand-by. Since this main has been in use I have not received any complaints of shortage.

Considerable savings were made on the Tidenham, Stroat and Aylburton to Allastone contracts, sufficient to cover the cost of a scheme at Alvington to replace a small pipe with a 4 in. main estimated to cost £5,975 14s. 3d. Ministry approval was received and work was expected to commence early in the new year.

New mains have also been laid on the Klondyke Housing Site at Lydney.

The water from Tufts Level is used for industrial purposes ; the chlorination plant has worked very well and all samples have been satisfactory.



I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Water Supplies Committee for their understanding and co-operation throughout the year, and my staff for their ready assistance. I should also like to thank the Water Supplies Officer of the Gloucestershire Agricultural Executive Committee for his co-operation, for with his Committee's assistance water supplies are available to all major farms.

The Woodcroft and Tutshill areas situated within the statutory area of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board, still cause anxiety regarding the supply of water. The negotiations for a bulk supply were completed and water is now being supplied to the Board at their Ban-y-gor reservoir, which is used to supply Woodcroft and Tutshill. This should be a temporary expedient, but more positive steps must be taken to afford an adequate supply for this rapidly developing area.

## HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. I. Spratt, the Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows :—

No new Council houses were completed during the year and the number remained as at the end of 1960.

	Pre-War and up to 1946	Post-War	Total
Alvington ... ..	14	17	31
Aylburton ... ..	8	36	44
Hewelsfield ... ..	6	4	10
Lydney ... ..	235	296	531
St Briavels ... ..	8	20	28
Tidenham ... ..	50	144	194
Woolaston ... ..	12	39	51
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>889</b>

In addition to the above the Council own twelve cottages at Lydney, one at Aylburton and six at Tutshill.

### Private Houses completed during the year

Lydney 36, Tidenham 23, St Briavels 7, Woolaston 2, Aylburton 5, Hewelsfield Nil, Alvington 1, total 74, bringing the number built since the war to 476.

### Improvement Grants

During the year six Discretionary Grant applications and twenty-two Standard Grants were approved.

56 houses owned by the Council were improved with the aid of improvement grants, and it is hoped that many more will be brought up to modern standards during the coming year.



# **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY**

## **Water Supply**

### **Ferneyley Supply**

A full chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of the raw water were satisfactory. Three samples were taken from the mains for bacteriological examination and all were reported on as satisfactory. Two showed suitable amounts of free and residual chlorine.

### **Tufts Level Supply**

A chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of the raw water were satisfactory. Two samples from the mains for bacteriological examination were satisfactory ; one showed free chlorine and one did not.

### **High Level Supply—Aylesmore (Rodmore) Boreholes**

A full chemical and bacteriological examination of the raw water was satisfactory. Another sample for bacteriological examination from a tap on this supply was satisfactory.

### **South Monmouthshire Water Board**

One sample was taken for bacteriological examination. This was satisfactory and contained suitable small amounts of chlorine.

### **Aylburton Village Supply**

Of two samples from taps on this supply one showed slight contamination and one was satisfactory.

### **Bathurst Swimming Pool**

Of two samples taken at the end of June, that from the deep end showed contamination whilst that from the shallow end was satisfactory. Repeat samples were satisfactory.

Although efficient filtration and chlorination apparatus is in use, it is unfortunate that this pool has to be filled and topped up with water from the heavily polluted Park Brook.

## **Sewerage**

A commencement was made on the St Briavels Village Scheme. The Council intend to sewer Tidenham as soon as possible. Connections to the new Alvington and Woolaston Scheme were commenced. Lydney and Aylburton are sewered direct to the River Severn.

**Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters) taken on 30.10.62**

	Aylesmore Borehole	Ferneyley Springs	Tufts Level
CHEMICAL (parts per million)			
Total Dissolved Solids ... ..	294	196	307
Loss on ignition ... ..	53	24	21
Mineral Matter ... ..	241	172	286
Total hardness ... ..	270	184	316
(a) Permanent ... ..	48	69	85
(b) Temporary ... ..	222	115	231
Chlorine (as Chloride) ... ..	10	11	11
Free Ammonia ... ..	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0	0	0
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	0.79	1.54	1.55
Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	0	0	0
Lead ... ..	0	0	0
Copper ... ..	0	0	0
Zinc ... ..	0	0	0
Iron ... ..	0	0	0
Reaction pH ... ..	7.4	7.8	7.3
Plate Count. of Yeastral agar			
24 hours at 37°C. ... ..	1	1	2
72 hours at 22°C. ... ..	1	10	5
Coliform bacilli (probable numbers per 100 ml.) ... ..	0	0	1
Bact. coli (type I) ... ..	0	0	0

# NEWENT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Public Health Committee

Chairman : R. S. CHEW

Vice-Chairman : MRS B. V. W. ROWDEN

Members : Councillors J. M. Brooks, F. Dunn, J. T. Harrison, A. E Hicks, G. H. Hyett, F. G. Knight, R. P. Ovington, W. E. Parry, W. P. P. Price, J. M. Smith, F. A. Windsor Clive and W. E. Wright.

## Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LOND.), D.P.H.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector : H. S. Jenkinson, A.I.A.S.,  
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer : T. A. CHETWOOD

Rodent Operator (part-time) : J. FREEMAN

## Statistics

Population=8,850 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1962).

Area=40,845 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=2,839.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1962, was £64,176.

Product of a 1d. Rate on the 31st March, 1962, was £252 18s. 1d.

Number of Live Births=167. Number of Deaths=91.

Excess of Births over Deaths=76.

Birth Rate=18.9 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.15 this gives a corrected rate of 17.2.

Death Rate=10.3 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 0.93 this gives a corrected rate of 9.6.

## Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	74	83	157	4	6	10	78	89	167
Still Births	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Deaths of infants under 1 week	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1-4 weeks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 wks.-1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Population, Number of Houses and Mains Water Supply

PARISH	Estimated Population	Number of Dwellings	Properties connected to Mains Water Supply	
			(i) Direct	(ii) Standpipe
Bromsberrow	213	70	51	—
Corse ...	511	158	99	—
Dymock ...	1,198	383	307	7
Hartpury ...	732	238	189	—
Kempley ...	247	79	62	—
Newent ...	3,210	1,041	1,027	14
Oxenhall ...	242	71	49	—
Pauntley ...	148	54	27	1
Redmarley ...	747	240	189	—
Rudford ...	276	81	65	—
Staunton ...	366	122	89	—
Taynton ...	461	140	110	—
Tibberton ...	277	94	85	—
Upleadon ...	222	68	47	—
TOTALS ...	8,850	2,839	2,396	22

The Gloucester Corporation Water Undertaking supplied all the properties on the mains except the following :—

Malvern Urban District Council supplies all the 51 properties supplied at Bromsberrow, 52 properties at Dymock and 19 at Redmarley. Also a bulk supply of 27,771,000 gallons was taken from the Gloucester Corporation Supply to serve 628 properties in Newent town.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Mr H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows :—

Public Health Section

Housing

Unfit houses closed

(i) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	5
(ii) Under Section 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	—
(iii) Parts of building closed	—
Unfit houses licensed for temporary occupation	—
Unfit houses made fit under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	—
Unfit houses in which defects were remedied or made fit by informal action	61

Housing Act, 1957

Overcrowding : Three cases of overcrowding were remedied by rehousing in Council houses.



**Rent Act, 1957**

Applications for certificates of disrepair :

Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	Nil
Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	Nil
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	Nil

**Factories Act, 1961**

**Part I**

I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occup.ers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities ... ..	6	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ity ... ..	20	25	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' prem- ises) ... ..	8	12	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	34	52	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	4	4	—	—	—

### Caravan Licences

There are no large caravan sites in the area. Twenty-seven caravans are licensed throughout the District.

### Water Supplies

#### Well Supplies

The water from one well was examined bacteriologically and found to be unsatisfactory.

## **Meat**

### **Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952**

#### **Slaughterhouses**

There are three slaughterhouses in the District : at Newent, Dymock and Tibberton, the one at Dymock is used only occasionally. All slaughterhouses comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations.

#### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958**

Twelve slaughtermen are licensed in the District.

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.**

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	195	—	10	1,063	264	—
Number inspected ...	195	—	10	1,063	264	—
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	18	—	—	12	11	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	9.2	—	—	1.1	4.2	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	..... 2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat or organs condemned : 368 lbs.



**Food and Drugs Act, 1955**

This Department is notified when shops or individuals suspect that items of food are unfit for human consumption. The following were condemned during the year :—

Gammon ham	...	...	1 × 9 lbs.
Pork sausages	...	...	6 × 1 lb.
Beef sausage	...	...	6 × 1 lb.
Corned beef	...	...	1 × 6 lbs.
Chopped pork	...	...	1 × 4 lb.
<hr/>			
Total weight	...	...	31 lbs.

**Ice-cream**

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the District. Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream ; one is for soft ice-cream and the remainder is pre-packed.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food**

Type of Business	Total No.	No. of Inspections	Remarks
Cafes and Canteens	15	50	This includes school canteens.
Grocery and Provision Shops	34	68	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice-cream Vendors	24	38	Registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Butchers Shops ...	7	66	(This includes two Mobile Traders from outside the District). Three registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (sausage making, etc.).
Fishmongers ...	2	8	(This includes one Mobile van). There is one fried fish premise in the District.
Bakehouses ...	2	2	
Licensed Premises	19	36	All in good hygienic condition.
Dairies ... ..	3	8	Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.
Wholesale Premises (food manufacture)	2	4	Egg Packing and Poultry Dressing Stations.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Report by the Additional Public Health Inspector and Pests Officer.

During the year the following work was carried out :—

Type of Property	Inspections	Treatments
Local Authority ... ..	8	8
Dwelling Houses ... .. (including Council Houses) ... ..	476	6
All other ... .. (including Business Premises) ... ..	110	3
Total ... ..	594	17
Agriculture ... ..	50	3

### Details of work carried out on Sewers and Refuse Tips

Sewers and Works	Action Taken	Result
Cleeve Lane Sewage Works ... ..	Treatment	Minor Infestation Cleared
Cadbury's Sewage Works ... ..	Test Baited	Clear
Newent Town Sewers ... ..	Test Baited	Clear
Dymock Sewerage System ... ..	Test Baited	Clear
Refuse Tips	Action Taken	Result
Malswick Tip ... ..	Treatment	Clear
Newent R.D.C. Yard (Salvage Depot)	Treatment	Clear
Kempley ... ..	Treatment	Clear
Dymock ... ..	Inspected	Clear

When this Council carries out treatment at private dwellings or business premises at the request of the owner/occupier, charges are made to cover the full cost of treatment, except in the case of old age pensioners.

The Council have no arrangements to carry out disinfection by contract.

The Council's Rodent Operator is a full-time employee and undertakes part-time duty in rodent control when necessary. The methods employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## Surveyor's Section

### Improvement Grants

Discretionary Grants for conversion or improvement of Housing Accommodation.

Applications approved :

Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	13

Standard Grants for improvements of dwellings :

Applications approved	...	...	...	41
Grants paid after completion of work	...			36

Number of amenities provided : Baths 26, Wash basins 32, Hot water system 32, Water closets 26 and Food Stores 27.

### Refuse Collection

The period of collection is weekly in Newent town and every four weeks in the remainder of the District.

There are two tips and tipping is mainly controlled apart from delays in covering refuse caused by weather or machinery holdups.

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

### Newent

It was anticipated that tenders would be invited early in 1963, for the construction of the new Sewage Disposal Works at Cleeve Lane, together with a pumping scheme to bring the Northern end of the Town into the main sewerage system and work should commence in 1963.

### Corse and Staunton

These works are dealing with 36 dwellings which is to design capacity and give no indication of overloading.

### Hartpury and Dymock

The position at these works is unchanged.

### Public Conveniences

There are two public conveniences in Newent and one at Dymock.

### Petroleum Storage

Forty-three premises were licensed for bulk storage of petrol.



## HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr H. S. Jenkinson reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

### Council Houses

No new Council houses were completed during the year and the number remained as at the end of 1961.

Parish	Pre-war	Post-war including 1962	Total
Bromsberrow ...	6	4	10
Corse ... ..	6	20†	26
Dymock ... ..	16	27*	43
Hartpury ... ..	10	6	16
Kempley ... ..	4	12	16
Newent ... ..	54	121†	175
Oxenhall ... ..	—	6	6
Pauntley ... ..	—	—	—
Redmarley ... ..	8	16	24
Rudford ... ..	—	4	4
Staunton ... ..	6	6	12
Taynton ... ..	8	—	8
Tibberton ... ..	2	4	6
Upleadon ... ..	6	6‡	12
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>358</b>

\* Includes four flats at the High House, Dymock.

† Includes fourteen 2-bedroomed houses.

‡ Includes two 2-bedroomed houses.

### Council House Building

Work commenced at West View, Newent, for the erection of eleven dwellings including four 1-bedroom bungalows, also at Wynford, Taynton, for seven dwellings. At this latter site a sewage disposal works was being constructed to deal with seven new and six existing dwellings.

### Improvements to Council Houses

Further progress has been made in connection with the Council's drive to install water closets in all pre-war houses. During the year water closets, hot water systems and wash basins were installed at the following properties :—

- I - 4 Knapp Cottages, Ryton
- I - 6 Worcester Row, Corse
- I - 6 Playley Green, Redmarley



An automatic pumping plant was installed in connection with sewage disposal at the six Playley Green, Redmarley, houses.

Schemes were prepared and estimates obtained for dealing with a further 8 houses, work to be put in hand in 1963. This leaves only two Council houses requiring conversion from pail closets to water closets.

### **Private Houses**

Seventy-three private houses were erected during the year making a total of 371 during the post-war period.

Newent town is attractive to speculative estate developers and a number of schemes totalling 70 houses or more were either in progress or in hand. Some of these schemes will not be allowed to commence until the new Newent Sewage Works are completed.

# WEST DEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Public Health Committee

Chairman : W. G. MORGAN

Members (from May, 1962) : Councillors Miss J. E. Davies, Mrs M. I. C. Tandy, H. Brookes, P. M. George, S. W. Hatton, G. T. D. Jenkins, R. S. Jones, A. W. Price and J. Rooke Johnston.

## Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health : A. T. HUNT, M.B., B.S.(LOND.), D.P.H.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Public Health Inspector : W. T. BEBB, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : C. W. BEDDIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Operator and Assistant to the Public Health Inspector :  
E. T. NELMES

## Statistics

Population=17,590 (Registrar General's Estimate at mid 1962).

Area=24,155 acres.

Number of inhabited dwellings=5,714.

Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1962, was £146,830.

Product of a 1d. Rate on 31st March, 1962, was £551 14s. 11d.

Number of Live Births=307. Number of Deaths=236.

Excess of Births over Deaths=71.

Birth Rate=17.5 live births per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a corrected rate of 18.3

Death Rate=13.4 deaths per 1,000 population. When this is multiplied by the area comparability factor of 1.01 this gives a corrected rate of 14.5

Births and Infantile Deaths

	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Totals		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
Live Births	166	129	295	2	10	12	168	139	307
Still Births	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
Deaths of infants under 1 wk.	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
1-4 weeks	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
4 wks.-1 yr.	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2

Population, Number of Houses and Caravans and Mains Water

PARISH	Estimated Popu- lation	No. of Dwell- ings	No. of Cara- vans	Properties con- nected to Mains Water Supply	
				(i) Direct	(ii) Stand- pipe*
WEST DEAN R.D.					
Coleford ... ..	3,468	1,037	32	1,023	16
English Bicknor ... ..	426	144	3	133	5
Lydbrook Parish ... ..	2,457	779	6	737	23
Newland Parish ... ..	985	330	5	295	5
Staunton ... ..	197	68	1	67	—
WEST DEAN PARISH					
Berry Hill ... ..	1,631	483	14	443	11
Bream ... ..	2,297	773	4	716	2
Broadwell ... ..	1,496	497	2	486	4
Ellwood ... ..	527	170	4	150	—
Milkwall ... ..	804	241	32	262	1
Parkend ... ..	654	205	1	196	2
Pillowell ... ..	482	159	—	136	4
Viney Hill ... ..	405	128	5	107	2
Whitcroft ... ..	581	194	—	181	4
Yorkley ... ..	1,180	396	1	372	5
Total W.D. Parish ... ..	10,057	3,246	63	3,049	35
Total West Dean Rural District ... ..	17,590	5,604	110	5,304	84

\* Includes properties with an outside tap.

Mr E. Nelmes supplied me with the number of dwellings and the properties connected to the mains for the above table ; I have apportioned the population of the Rural District as estimated by the Registrar General according to the numbers of names on the electoral lists.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr W. T. Bebb reports as follows :—

### Housing

(a)	Action under Sections 16/17 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made	20
(ii)	Number of dwellings in respect of which undertakings were accepted that	
(a)	the houses would cease to be used for human habitation	Nil
(b)	the houses would be made fit to the satisfaction of the Local Authority	Nil
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made in lieu of demolition orders	10
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were cancelled after necessary work had been completed and houses rendered fit	3
(b)	Action under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1957	
	Number of demolition orders revoked after properties involved had been made fit	Nil
(c)	Action under Section 27 of the Housing Act 1957	
	Number of closing orders determined after properties had been made fit	1
(d)	Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act 1957	
	Number of closing orders revoked and demolition orders substituted	Nil
(e)	Action under Part III (Clearance and Re-Development) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil

### Demolition of condemned properties

Twenty-five houses were completely demolished during the year and a further thirty-six were in the process of being demolished when the year ended.

As twenty Demolition Orders only were imposed, it means that for the first time the rate of demolition has outstripped the rate at which orders are put on.

The total number of houses made the subject of Demolition Orders since 1955, when the current Slum Clearance Programme began, now stands at 153, and the total number of houses demolished since that date is 168 (57 in this programme and 111 condemned prior to 1955).

Two properties were demolished by the Council in default of the owners. Eight properties have now been dealt with in this way since 1955.



# Slum Clearance

Since the formulation of the Slum Clearance proposals in 1955, when it was decided to deal with 321 Slum Houses in the first eight years of the Programme, 294 have now either been dealt with under the appropriate Sections of the Housing Act or by voluntary action, as follows :—

Houses dealt with Officially under Housing Act					
Subject to Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	153
Subject to Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	57
Subject to Undertakings	...	...	...	...	28
In Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	5
Hutments in ownership of Council	...	...	...	...	21
					<hr/>
					264
Houses dealt with Unofficially					
Forestry Houses ceased to be used for occupation (with the co-operation of the Forestry Commission)	...				2
Houses renovated without need for formal action	...				21
A Crown House closed and subsequently sold for demolition	...	...	...	...	1
Cottages owned by the Council from which the tenants were re-housed and properties closed	...	...			3
Demolished without action being taken	...	...			2
Cottage burnt down and not rebuilt	...	...	...		1
					<hr/>
					30

Twenty houses were improved after formal action.

Twenty-five properties are at the moment in the process of being constructed to re-house Slum Clearance families and the completion of a small number of houses in 1963 should complete the Council's first programme.

It does appear that to clear 321 properties under Slum Clearance, it will have been necessary only to build 154 new Council Houses.

# Improvement Grants

A conditions of approval of Standard Grants is that after the works specified in the application for Grant have been carried out the property will be in such condition as not to be unfit for human habitation, and that it is likely to remain so and available for use as a dwelling for a period of at least 15 years.

Accordingly properties in respect of which applications for Standard Grants were received were inspected by the Public Health Inspectors and in appropriate cases such additional works as were found to be necessary to satisfy this condition were required to be undertaken by the applicant.

Forty-eight properties were inspected for this purpose during the year, works additional to the provision of the Standard amenities being required in 46 cases.

## Water Supply

One hundred and fifty-eight samples of water were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for bacteriological examination and report.

### Main Supply

Owing to diminishing yield from existing sources it became necessary to augment the main supply. Samples were taken from two sources under consideration for this purpose and as a result Big Well at Redbrook was brought into use, the water being pumped to the collecting chamber at Redbrook Pumping Station.

The bacteriological condition of the water at Big Well subsequently proved to be disappointing and work was done to prevent surface water gaining access. This appeared to have little immediate effect although later samples showed an improvement.

Exceptionally heavy rain during the night 29th to 30th September resulted in pollution of all the main sources of supply, samples taken from the collecting chambers at both Lydbrook and Redbrook Pumping Stations and also from Big Well, Redbrook, all indicating contamination. This was a matter of concern, especially as much of the water pumped from Lydbrook by-passes the storage reservoir at The Pludds and enters directly, after chlorination, into the mains system, and also as the supply to Redbrook Village contains untreated water.

As a precaution the chlorine dosage was increased at both Lydbrook and Redbrook, but this gave rise to complaints of taste and smell.

Numerous examinations of the water from taps at various points on the mains throughout the District were carried out for free chlorine after the dosage had been increased, using a Lovibond Comparator, and eventually the amount of chlorine added was fixed at a fifth of a part per million (0.2 p.p.m.) at both stations and this has since proved to be satisfactory.

Subsequently samples were also taken from each of the constituent sources of the Redbrook supply, and all except the Swanpool Gallery Springs showed contamination. The supply from Frenchwood Springs, which showed heavy contamination, was thereafter regularly sampled; there was an improvement but this appears to be an unreliable source.

The treated water in the mains supply was maintained in a bacteriologically satisfactory condition throughout the year, only one of seventy-three samples taken from taps in all parts of the District not being entirely free of coliform bacilli.

Seven samples were taken from new mains extensions, a satisfactory report on the conditions of the water being required before bringing them into operation.

An investigation was carried out at Lydbrook into the possibility of drainage from nearby houses affecting the purity of the water supply. This was not established but it was found that surface water was entering the collecting chamber during wet weather and works necessary to remedy this were carried out.



**Private Supplies**

Nine samples were taken for various reasons and all were reported to be unsatisfactory.

**Public Wells**

One sample was taken from Dunraven Well, Clearwell, and the water was reported to be unsatisfactory. A notice warning that it should be boiled before drinking is displayed at the well.

**Milk and Dairies**

**Register of Dairies**

The number of registered dairies remained at four. These are dairies other than those at dairy farms, which are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Messrs Baker Bros. ceased to use their Beech Dairy at Coalway for pasteurisation and bottling, on the business being acquired by Sedbury Dairies Limited, for use as a depot from which milk previously treated and bottled at Sedbury could be supplied to retailers.

**Register of Milk Distributors**

The number of registered milk distributors remained at 16.  
In addition six distributors sold milk in the District from premises outside, and were required to be registered only with the local authority within whose area their premises were situated.  
Twenty dairy farmers also sold milk by retail in the District, being registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

**Milk Sampling**

Sixty samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for examination and report. The results were as follows :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested Milk					
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	27
Satisfied the prescribed test (Methylene Blue)	...				26
Failed the prescribed test	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk					
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	20
Satisfied the prescribed tests (Methylene Blue and Phosphatase)	...	...	...	...	20
Failed the prescribed tests	...	...	...	...	0
(c) Pasteurised Milk					
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	10
Satisfied the Methylene Blue test	...	...	...	...	9
Satisfied the Phosphatase test	...	...	...	...	10
Failed the Methylene Blue test	...	...	...	...	1
(d) Sterilised Milk					
Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	3
Satisfied the prescribed test (Turbidity)	...	...	...	...	3
Failed the prescribed test	...	...	...	...	0

No animal inoculation tests were carried out at the Laboratory on any of the samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk ; and no tests for the presence of *Brucella abortus*, the causative organism of undulant fever in man, were carried out.

### **Milk Vending Machine**

Samples taken from the machine installed outside a shop in Coleford were all satisfactory.

### **Ice-Cream**

#### **Register of ice-cream premises**

Number on the register at the beginning of 1962	...	92
Removed from the register during the year	...	0
Added to the register during the year	...	2
Number of registered premises at the end of the year	...	94

In six cases registration was transferred to incoming occupiers following changes in the occupation of registered premises.

One application for registration was refused, the premises, a public house, being regarded as unsuitable for the purpose.

There was one manufacturer of ice-cream in the District, the "cold mix" method being used. All other ice-cream was supplied by the large manufacturing companies.

No samples were taken during the year because of inability to obtain supplies of "dry-ice" for the despatch of samples to the Laboratory.

### **Food Hygiene**

At the end of the year the number of food premises in the District was as follows :—

Bakers	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	...	21
Caterers	...	...	...	...	29
Chemists	...	...	...	...	3
Fish and Chip Fryers	...	...	...	...	7
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	4
General Shopkeepers	...	...	...	...	87
Grocers	...	...	...	...	17
Sweetshopkeepers	...	...	...	...	14
					<hr/>
					189
					<hr/>

In addition numerous mobile shops operate throughout the District, and there are usually one or two stalls in Coleford during the Summer.



**Hotels, Public Houses and Clubs**

At the end of the year there were 66 licensed premises in the District. One public house closed following objection by the Council at the Annual Licensing Sessions to the renewal of the licence, the living accommodation being unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost and the business accommodation being below the required standard. The Brewery Company were unwilling to carry out improvements and the Licensing Justices refused to renew the licence. Subsequently the premises were made the subject of a Demolition Order.

One public house was closed after the owner had been notified of the Council's intention to object at the Annual Licensing Sessions to the renewal of the licence ; the premises being well below the required standard and the owner unwilling to carry out improvements. No application was made for renewal of the licence.

Another public house was voluntarily closed by the Brewery Company, as it had become redundant.

One of the licensed Clubs was acquired by the County Council in connection with road widening and other improvements, and was subsequently closed and demolished.

One licensed Club was newly opened.

By the end of the year works to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations and Public Health Acts had been completed at all except four public houses at which general reconstruction and modernisation was intended.

**Meat and other Food Inspection**

The following food was inspected and condemned at various premises in the District as being unfit for human consumption :—

One whole pig (weight 107 lbs.)	...	petechial haemorrhages throughout the musculature.
62 lbs. beef	... ..	bone-taint
Two 4 lb. cans of corned beef	...	decomposition.
41 cans assorted foodstuffs	...	cans blown or damaged

Most retailers in the District have an arrangement with their wholesale suppliers that if there is any suspicion regarding the fitness of any can of food, it is returned to them so that the quantity of canned food surrendered by shopkeepers is comparatively small.

**Complaints**

Three food complaints were received during the year.

One concerned a tin of soup in which it was alleged that a piece of elastic band had been found. The matter was taken up with the manufacturer who made recompense to the purchaser.

A complaint regarding a packet of cheese spread purchased in a stale and mouldy condition from a shop in Monmouth was referred to the Public Health Inspector for the Borough of Monmouth. On making enquiries at the shop he found that a representative of the manufacturer had already visited, as it had been discovered that the sealing of the packets of this particular batch was faulty, and had withdrawn all unsold packets from sale. Recompense was made to the purchaser.

The other complaint concerned some slices of cooked ham which had an unusual smell. No action was taken apart from bringing the complaint to the notice of the shopkeeper as the smell was believed to be the result of certain feeding stuffs, e.g. fish offal, consumed by the animal from which the ham was derived prior to slaughter, and that the ham was fit for consumption. The shopkeeper, however, voluntarily withdrew from sale his remaining stock.

### **Slaughterhouses**

There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the District and no post-mortem meat inspection was carried out during the year.

## **Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961**

### **Statutory Notices**

Nuisances were mainly abated without recourse to formal action, but in four cases it was necessary to serve Abatement Notices under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of nuisances at dwelling houses by reason of disrepair. Three of these were duly complied with, but in one case owing to particular circumstances the matter was allowed to lapse.

One notice was served under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of a nuisance arising from an overflowing cesspool and this was complied with.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers**

The Council made byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers under Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, in accordance with Model Byelaws Series XXX of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, for the purpose of securing :—

- (a) the cleanliness of premises on which a hairdresser's or barber's business is carried on and of the instruments, towels, materials and equipment used therein, and
- (b) the cleanliness of the hairdressers or barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

These came into operation on the 1st November, 1962.

### **Rivers and Streams**

A Moore's swab, placed in the stream at Lydbrook, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Newport, did not reveal the presence of any organisms of the enteric, salmonella or dysentery groups.

**Infectious Diseases**

Investigations into over sixty cases of illness chiefly among pupils attending a primary school and their contacts, were carried out during December. Twenty-one of these were confirmed as suffering from dysentery.

**Factories Act 1961**

Factory premises registered at the commencement of 1962	...	64
Premises removed from Register during the year	...	1
Premises added to Register during the year	...	3
Number of registered factory premises at the end of 1962	...	66

**Part I**

**I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written notices	Occupiers Prosec'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	66	31	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	66	31	1	—



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (Defects discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions are reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosec'tns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient	—*	1*	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—*	1*	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences re- lating to Out- work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—*	2*	—	—	—

\* The difference in figures shown in these columns is due to contraventions and defects found prior to 1962.



**Section 57**

One factory relies for its supply of drinking water on a nearby brook because connection to the Council's water main cannot in the opinion of the management, be carried out at a reasonable cost. A small sterasyl candle filter has been installed but although samples taken since have been reported to contain no coliform bacilli or bact. coli (type 1) the brook is known to be heavily polluted, and accordingly the Council did not approve this as a wholesome supply.

**Section 133**

A total of 116 persons (comprising 10 from a clothing factory and 106 from a metal fastener manufacturer), was listed as outworkers.

**General**

**Swimming Baths**

At the end of the summer the Parent Teachers Association provided a mechanical filtration and chlorination plant at the Bell's Grammar School bath. It is to be hoped that its use will prove as effective as the careful use of manual methods have in the past.

The experience gained in late 1961 from the experimental use of copper sulphate for algicidal purposes, was put into effect at the commencement of the season at both swimming baths.

As a result, the water at the Berry Hill Secondary Modern School bath did not require changing during the whole season, and at Bell's Grammar School at least a 50% saving of water was effected.

Seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory. All were found to be satisfactory. Checks for free and residual chlorine and for pH values were carried out independently by the Public Health Department.

**Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960**

Details from Register of Site Licences :—

Number of Site Licences on the Register at the begin-							
ning of 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Number of Site Licences registered (including renewals)							
during 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total number of Site Licences on the Register at the							
end of 1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Included in these are :							
Holiday Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Residential Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

The 64 residential site licences, authorise the stationing of 130 caravans, although, mainly because some of the sites for single caravans, with planning consent in perpetuity, have fallen into disuse, the actual number of caravans stationed throughout the District at any one time is less than this.

Seven caravans are used on sites, which, by nature of their use, are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Act.

**Notices**

One notice, for the contravention of licence conditions, was served under Section 9 and was subsequently complied with.

**Legal Action**

It was necessary to take legal action against a site owner for non-compliance with a notice served under Section 9, late in 1961, for failure to provide amenities in accordance with his licence conditions. After being fined by the Court the owner of the site chose to remove the caravan rather than carry out the necessary works. These have accordingly never been completed and it seems most improbable that they ever will be. Nevertheless, planning permission and a site licence have been granted in perpetuity.

**Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949 - 1954**

By the late summer it became evident that the work under this Act could no longer be carried out by the existing staff, and the Council decided to employ an outside firm of contractors who specialize in this type of work.

For a fixed sum they undertook to carry out all the operating duties normally undertaken by the Council, including the treatment of business premises, farms, etc., from the owners of which, if they considered it necessary, they recovered any expenses involved.

A summary of the year's operations is as follows :—

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)								190
Number of infestations (including re-infestations) treated								99
(a) Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
(b) Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Treatment was also given to the old culvert system at Coleford and the Lydbrook Stream.

The biennial tests, for the influx of rats to Coleford's post-war sewers, again proved negative.

**Petroleum Spirit and Calcium Carbide**

Number of premises licensed to store petroleum spirit	...	55
Number of premises licensed to store calcium carbide	...	3

## **Slaughter of Animals Act 1958**

Four licences to slaughter animals were issued during the year.

## **Game Act 1831**

No dealers licences under this Act were issued during the year.

## **Land Charges Act 1925**

Enquiries were regularly received and answered relating to Official Searches.

# **ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT**

Mr H. Parks, M.I.MUN.E., M.I.H.E., M.INST.P.H.E., reports as follows :—

## **Water Supply**

The total rainfall for the year 1962 amounted to 30.3 in. and was reasonably well spread over the whole of the year except for one isolated occasion during the night of 29th and 30th September when 2.05 in. of rain fell in approximately six hours. The result of this intense rainfall caused a considerable increase in the flow of water through the brook and culverts adjacent to the Lydbrook Waterworks Pumping Station, but fortunately did not cause either a chokeage of the culvert or an overflow of the banks of the brook. Nevertheless, the intensity of the rainfall influenced the quality of underground water available to the Lime Kiln Pool Springs at the Lydbrook Pumping Station, and it was discovered in the early hours of the morning that the water had become slaty and cloudy and of an unsatisfactory appearance.

As a result of these conditions, the Pumping Station was closed down ; the suction well was pumped out and cleaned and sterilized and samples of water were sent away for analyses. In the meantime the whole of the District's requirements were turned over from Lydbrook sources to the Redbrook sources of supply. The analyses of the samples of water proved a heavy contamination, but fortunately this contamination cleared in 24 hours, and the supply was brought back to normal, though for some appreciable time thereafter and, as a safeguard, it was considered prudent to increase the dose of chlorine injected into the public supplies.

Whilst dealing with the matter of weather conditions, it should be mentioned that the last four days of 1962 saw the commencement of what later proved to be a winter of unprecedented severity, but on this particular matter, no doubt I will find it desirable to say more in the Annual Report for 1963.



## **Yield of Springs**

The minimum yield of springs occurred during the latter part of October when the total supplies (other than the temporary supply from Big Well) fell to as low as 896,000 gallons per day. Compared with the minimum yield experienced in December of 1961, which amounted to 1,090,000 gallons per day, it will be readily appreciated that the supply situation throughout West Dean District was a constant source of anxiety. The Council had, however, taken emergency measures sufficiently early in the year to enable the situation to be coped with, and this enabled them to supply water to East Dean Council in far greater quantities than the maximum laid down in the agreement between the two Authorities.

## **Pumping Stations and Sources of Supply**

At an early stage in the year it was quite evident that in order to meet the demands made by industrial and domestic consumption, together with the bulk supply to East Dean Council, additional supplies would have to be obtained and emergency measures undertaken. I reported on the seriousness of this situation from time to time between January and May, and on the 31st May, the Council authorised a scheme to go forward enabling water to be purchased from a private supply at Redbrook known as "Big Well", up to the extent of 240,000 gallons per day. The water being pumped from that supply to Redbrook Pumping Station where, after chlorination, it was pumped to the Staunton Reservoir together with other available water from Council's own supply springs at Redbrook.

The total cost of the scheme was approximately £7,000 and entailed the building of a temporary pumping station, the installation of equipment therein in the form of pumps, motors and switch gear, the provision of an incoming supply of electricity and the laying of approximately one mile of 6 in. cast iron main on top of the ground. This, together with all the relevant administrative matters arising from this emergency work, e.g., collaboration with Forestry Commission and other land owners, the owners of the "Big Well" supply, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Gloucestershire County Council, and many other bodies, including the Midlands Electricity Board, proved to be particularly onerous having regard to the limited time available in which to do the work.

It was anticipated that the industrial demand from the Royal Forest Factory would increase by some 350,000 gallons per day in the latter part of June and remain at a high figure until the early part of August. It was thus imperative that the scheme be implemented without delay and indeed it was completed and brought into operation on the 27th of June from which date it was used continuously to the end of the year.



I must say that if the Council had not been prepared to go forward with this emergency scheme, the supplies both to East Dean Council and to the Royal Forest Factory would have had to have been severely limited, and restrictions placed upon the domestic consumer. In fact, some restrictions on the domestic consumer were found to be desirable in spite of all this work and remained in force until September.

Arising from the Deep Well Emergency Pumping Scheme, together with the need to man both Redbrook and Lydbrook Pumping Stations for 24 hours of each day, it was necessary to engage a fifth pumping attendant on the permanent staff and a sixth one on the temporary staff, so that “round-the-clock” pumping could continue.

One of the multi-stage turbine pumps at the Redbrook Pumping Station was sent away for renovation during the year, but on its return, was placed in a temporary capacity at the Big Well Temporary Pumping Station.

At both Waterworks Pumping Stations, electric “Sadia” heaters were installed to provide a hot water supply for the personal use of the pumping attendants, so as to comply with Factories Act requirements.

During the year the Contractors engaged on laying of new sewers in the Lydbrook Parish excavated through the Pumping Station grounds and laid a length of the new sewer in steel tubes with watertight manholes to safeguard against any possible surcharge of the sewers and consequent overflow of sewage into the Pumping Station Collecting Chambers.

Before leaving this section dealing with Pumping Stations and Sources of Supply, I feel it desirable once again to draw attention to the need for long term planning so that additional sources of supply can be investigated and brought into the Council’s scheme. I reported on this matter during the year to the Water Committee especially mentioning the possibility of abstraction of water from the River Wye, or in combination with the East Dean R.D.C. from one or other of the various mine shafts, or from the water pumped by the N.C.B. from the Princess Royal Colliery, but the delay in setting up the proposed new Water Board tends to make any progress in these matters difficult.

**Demands**

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Domestic   | 3. Bulk Supplies |
| 2. Industrial | 4. Total         |

The domestic demand for the District averaged 35.1 gallons per head per day which is greater than has been experienced at any time in the past, but it will be seen later in this report that during the year appreciable progress was made in the laying of new water mains and the furnishing of a better supply to some parts of the District which, in previous years, had not been entirely satisfactory.

As mentioned in previous Annual Reports, the industrial demand continues to grow, though the Council has always, so far, been able to meet all requirements. There is not now, however, a sufficient margin of safety in the summer time and the need for obtaining further supplies is emphasized.

Bulk supplies to East Dean Council have been maintained throughout the year, despite all the many difficulties. In fact, not only have they been maintained, but for many weeks the supply afforded to East Dean Council exceeded the agreed 180,000 gallons per day by as much as a further 80,000 gallons.

The total demand of domestic, industrial and bulk supplies resulted in pumping abstraction as follows :—

Total Gallons	Pumping Stations		Supplied to		
	Redbrook	Lydbrook	Beecham's Factory	East Dean	West Dean
376,246,000	124,470,000	251,776,000	85,818,000	66,639,000	223,789,000

### Distribution

Mention was made in last year's Annual Report of difficulties of supply arising at Stowfield and Lydbrook, especially to the Stowfield Hospital. The placing of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. overland polythene pipe line direct to the Hospital was not entirely successful and schemes have now been prepared for the provision of new 4 in. and 3 in. high pressure mains through Upper, Central and Lower Lydbrook, and to Stowfield Hospital, as well as to Temco Factory. This scheme, at the close of the year, was awaiting approval by the County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The laying of the 9 in. trunk main from Mile End to Sling Reservoir and Beecham's Factory was completed during the year, and with the increased supply to Sling Reservoir afforded a much better supply to Sling and onwards to the Southern part of the District.

New connections to the water mains during the year amounted to 92.

### Waste Water Detection

Although the average domestic consumption per head of the population is greater this year than previously, and although the matter has been reported upon to the Committee and mentioned in my previous Annual Reports, the systematic waste water detection is not yet a satisfactory or sufficient organisation for the purpose, and I can only repeat as before that waste water detection staff should be employed and trained in this work.



## **Housing**

- (a) New dwellings by Council
- (b) New private dwellings
- (c) Improvements to Council dwellings
- (d) Improvements to private dwellings

### **(a) New dwellings by Council**

At the start of the year the Council was engaged upon the completion of the 1961 Housing Programme, comprising of 4 houses at Joys Green and 6 at Berry Hill, and Old Persons Bungalows as follows :— 12 at Coleford, 4 at Bream, 6 at Joys Green, 6 at Yorkley, 4 at Clearwell and 6 at Berry Hill. In all the foregoing cases, there was an existing network of sewers and sewage disposal works.

In addition to the completion of the 1961 Housing Programme, work also started on the 1962 Programme. This comprised 6 houses at Sling and Old Persons Bungalows as follows :—4 at Wynols Hill, 6 at Yorkley, 6 at Whitecroft and 6 at Coleford. Of the 1962 Programme, the proposed 6 houses at Sling and 6 Old Persons Bungalows at Whitecroft had no existing facilities for sewerage, and as the Council intended to modernise the 12 adjacent pre-war Council houses, it was considered desirable to lay new sewers complete, both for the new houses and the modernisation, and to construct a new disposal works to serve the total.

24 new Council dwellings were completed during the year, these being part of the outstanding 1961 Programme.

### **(b) New private dwellings**

48 new private dwellings were constructed during 1962.

### **(c) Improvements to Council dwellings**

The Council are pressing ahead with the schemes for modernisation and improvement to all the pre-war Council houses, but as this entails so much technical preparation and administrative work, it was found necessary to phase the works, and during 1962 improvements were carried out to 12 dwellings at Lower Yorkley, whilst similar schemes were put in hand for the 12 at Sling, mentioned earlier in this report.

At the close of the year, the Council was also actively engaged on preparation of schemes for further phases comprising 128 houses throughout the District.

### **(d) Improvements to private dwellings**

122 private dwellings were improved during the year by the provision of modern amenities, and for this the Council made 50 Discretionary and 40 Standard Grants.

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year, in addition to seven connections for new dwellings or improvements to existing dwellings in the Coleford, Berry Hill or Broadwell areas, there were new connections to the sewers as follows :—

Coleford	...	...	4
Berry Hill	...	...	3
Broadwell	...	...	4

Difficulties continued to be experienced with the state of the culvert at Coleford, and once again during the year a collapse occurred which had to be excavated, the culvert re-built, and the ground reinstated.

At Newland, approximately 40 yards of the main outfall sewer leading to the Newland Disposal Works became fractured when a length of the bank along side the brook collapsed. It was necessary to build a retaining wall and re-fill behind in order to relay and make good the damaged sewer. During the course of these operations a temporary sewer was laid on piers using steel tubes.

At the Newland Disposal Works, the situation is now extremely critical, the works being most grossly overloaded, even on dry weather flow, and as a result, the filter bed media is becoming choked and “ponding”.

The circumstances have been reported to the Council’s Consulting Engineers, and it is hoped that the existing beds will receive new filter media at the time the present works are extended.

Disposal of sludge from all the Council’s Disposal Works also continues to be a difficulty, depending as it does on the weather for the drying of the sludge before it can be loaded and transported. Nevertheless every opportunity is taken to keep the sludge clear from the various Disposal Works and it is disposed of on the Council’s refuse tip where it is covered with refuse. (On occasions a tanker gully emptier is used to handle wet sludge).

The construction of new sewers and disposal works for Lydbrook made extremely good progress during 1962, and at the close of the year, this scheme was well advanced.

The area of West Dean comprising Bream, Whitecroft, Pillowell, Yorkley and Parkend, has now been covered by an aerial survey and the Council’s Consulting Engineers are preparing a draft scheme for the complete sewerage of this part of the District as a combined sewerage area.



## HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr A. C. Luker, the Housing Officer, reports as follows on the number of houses completed :—

### Council Houses

PARISH	1962	Pre-war	Post-war including 1962	Total
Coleford ... ..	5	166	245	411
English Bicknor ... ..	—	8	16	24
Staunton ... ..	—	—	11	11
NEWLAND				
Clearwell ... ..	—	10	14	24
Redbrook ... ..	—	34	—	34
LYDBROOK				
Lydbrook ... ..	—	52	—	52
Joys Green ... ..	7	20	120	140
WEST DEAN				
Berry Hill ... ..	—	50	56	106
Bream ... ..	6	80	119	199
Broadwell ... ..	—	64	50	114
Ellwood ... ..	—	6	—	6
Milkwall ... ..	—	6	38	44
Parkend ... ..	6	12	41	53
Pillowell ... ..	—	12	—	12
Viney Hill ... ..	—	—	—	—
Whitcroft ... ..	—	30	24	54
Yorkley ... ..	—	42	79	121
	24	592	813	1,405

Of the 24 dwellings completed and occupied during 1962, nine were one bedroom type bungalows, eight of which were let to tenants of pensionable age, the remainder being dwellings erected to re-house families under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

In addition to the number of dwellings set out above, the Council own eight other units of accommodation, all of which are occupied.

### Private Houses

Forty-eight were completed during the year, making a total of 338 during the post-war period.

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S SUMMARY

### Water Supply

As the yield of the springs in the first part of the year was comparatively low and the demand was increasing, water from the Big Well at Redbrook was used to supplement the supply and this was added to the water at Redbrook Pumping Station.

As the Limekiln Pool Springs arise in the centre of Lydbrook the collecting chamber is always liable to pollution from drainage, continuous vigilance is required so that polluted water is not pumped. It is unfortunate that this source has to be pumped to the amount that it is, as this tends to draw drainage into the area of the Springs. It is also unfortunate that some of this water passes direct into the mains without any storage.

Samples for bacteriological examination are taken regularly from the raw waters and from taps at different points of the supply.

### Sewerage

Coleford with Berry Hill and Broadwell are sewered.

Good progress was made with the Lydbrook Scheme.

The next area to be sewered is Bream, Whitecroft, Parkend, Pillowell and Yorkley. In view of the many nuisances and built up nature of the area, this is greatly needed.

Later, Schemes will be needed for Clearwell and Newland and also Sling and Milkwall.

### Analyses of Main Water Supplies (Raw waters) taken on 5.6.62

	Lydbrook Springs	Redbrook Big Well	Redbrook Other Sources
CHEMICAL (parts per million)			
Total Dissolved Solids ... ..	308	311	366
Loss on ignition ... ..	34	19	36
Mineral Matter ... ..	274	292	330
Total hardness ... ..	288	280	340
(a) Permanent ... ..	98	53	111
(b) Temporary ... ..	190	227	229
Chlorine (as Chloride) ... ..	13	12	15
Free Ammonia ... ..	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0	0.02	0
Nitrate Nitrogen ... ..	2.38	2.38	3.20
Nitrite Nitrogen ... ..	0	0	0
Lead ... ..	0	0	0
Copper ... ..	0	0	0
Zinc ... ..	0	0	0
Iron ... ..	0	0	0
Reaction pH ... ..	7.6	7.4	7.5
BACTERIOLOGICAL			
Plate Count. on Yeastral agar			
24 hours at 37°C. ... ..	1	1	1
72 hours at 22°C. ... ..	2	22	12
Coliform bacilli (probable numbers per 100 ml.) ... ..	1	0	0
Bact. coli (type I) ... ..	1	0	0





